

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1114
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01766

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: GENERAL ASSEMBLY AD HOC COMMITTEE
ADOPTS DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION

1. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE) OF
THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
NAMIBIA MET TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 2, TO VOTE ADOPTION OF
THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION (DOC. A/S-9/7,
21 APRIL 1978) PUT FORWARD BY THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

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2. THE FIVE (CANADA) HAD REGISTERED OUR DESIRE FOR A
VOTE ON THE DRAFT IN THE FACE OF AN AFRICAN EFFORT TO
PRESS FOR CONSENSUS ADOPTION. NORWAY, REPRESENTING
THE NORDICS, ALSO DEMANDED A VOTE.

3. THE RESULTS OF THE ROLL-CALL VOTE WERE 88 IN FAVOR,
NONE OPPOSED AND 18 ABSTENTIONS. THOSE ABSTAINING

INCLUDED THE WESTERN FIVE, EC-9, THE NORDICS (EXCEPT ICELAND WHICH WAS ABSENT) PLUS AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRIA. TWELVE LATIN AMERICANS AND A NOTABLE NUMBER OF OTHERS REGISTERED A CAUTIOUS VIEW BY THEIR ABSENCE. TEN DELEGATES EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS IN EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE: NORWAY (ON BEHALF OF THE NORDICS), AUSTRIA, NEW ZEALAND, GREECE, JAPAN, URUGUAY, AUSTRALIA, SPAIN, DENMARK (EC-9) AND TURKEY.

4. COMMENT: THE CONDUCT OF THE VOTE IRRITATED MANY IN THE HALL, WITH THE CHAIR RECOGNIZING A NUMBER OF LATE-ARRIVING DELEGATES AND ACCEPTING THEIR VOTES OUT OF TURN. AMB SALIM OF TANZANIA, SEATED NEXT TO THE US DELEGATION, OPENLY REGISTERED HIS DISGUST WITH THE MANNER OF THE PROCEEDINGS, LATER TELLING CHAIRMAN KONIE OF ZAMBIA IT WAS TECHNICALLY AN "ILLEGAL" VOTE. HIS VIEW, THOUGH, WAS THAT "IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE ANYWAY", AND THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE ASSEMBLY OVER WITH. A NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS REMARKED ON THE UN-SEEMLY ATTEMPT TO RAILROAD THE AFRICAN DRAFT THROUGH THE ASSEMBLY, GENERALLY FEELING THE PURPOSELESSNESS OF THIS GA WAS UNMISTAKABLY HIGHLIGHTED BY THE WAY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WAS HANDLED. YOUNG

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